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Spring 2-1-2017

### LSH 152L.02: Introduction to Humanities - Medieval to Modern

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## Introduction to the Humanities Dr. Mark Hanson

### **Class and teacher information:**

- Spring 2017
- Liberal Studies 152 – 02
- Course Location: LA 307
- MWF 1:10- 2:00
- Office: LA 152, 243-6844
- Office Hours: M, T, W 2:00 – 3:00/by appt.
- [Mark Hanson's Email: mark.hanson@umontana.edu](mailto:mark.hanson@umontana.edu)

A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say. A classic is something that tends to relegate the concerns of the moment to the status of background noise, but at the same time this background noise is something we cannot do without. (Conversely) A classic is something that persists as a background noise even when the most incompatible momentary concerns are in control of the situation. —Italo Calvino

### **Course Structure, Objectives, Learning Outcomes:**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the study of the humanities through a focus on selective texts from the Medieval to the Modern periods that have shaped Western civilization. We will explore the formation and transformation of some Western worldviews and themes, and reflect on how they have shaped and influenced society and our ideas about what it means to be human today. The emphases of the course are engaging in close readings of the primary texts, discussing, and writing about texts.

### **Course Objectives**

- Become familiar with the study of the humanities
- Read a variety of classic texts in the humanities from the late Middle Ages through the Modern period and use these texts to learn and consider their content and central themes, learn major developments in the history of the Western humanities, and develop skills in critical reflection and writing.

### **Learning Outcomes for Writing Courses**

- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions
- Demonstrate appropriate use of English language

### **Required Texts**

- Dante, *The Portable Dante* (Penguin: Musa trans.)
- More, *Utopia* (Penguin)
- Descartes, *Discourse on Method* (Library of Liberal Arts)
- Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Signet)
- Voltaire, *Candide* (Penguin)
- Tolstoy, *Death of Ivan Ilych*
- Mill, *On Liberty*

### **Requirements:**

- Formal paper draft one (4-5 pages) (20 pts.)
- Formal paper revision (50 pts.)
- Regular online posts/Quizzes: (usually 5 pts. each)
- Midterm exam: (50 pts.)

- Final exam: percent (70 pts.)
- Participation points
- Regular class attendance will give you the benefit of the doubt on borderline final grades

### **Formal Paper:**

The formal paper for the course will focus on some aspect of the meaning of being human in Dante. The second paper will include a revision of that paper (based on feedback). Details about this papers will be given in class and on the course website. Late papers will penalized two points per day (beginning the date it is due) up to 50 percent of the grade total unless prior permission from the instructor is obtained. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, with one to one-and-one-half-inch margins. Use page numbers, and give references to page numbers from the primary text and full citations to all outside sources. Papers should be submitted in class. Also note that papers with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be returned ungraded for correction and marked down as late. Written work will be evaluated in terms of the strength of your critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and clarity and grammatical accuracy of your writing.

### **Online posts, Quizzes, and Other Assignments:**

Students will be asked to post answers to discussion questions online and occasionally take quizzes or have other short assignments. Please check the course page in Moodle or ask if assignments are due if you are unable to attend a class period.

### **Midterm Exam:**

Will cover material from the plenary lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions. The format will likely be mixed, possibly including multiple choice, quotation identifications short-answer essays, and/or longer essay questions. You must write your exam during the final exam period. Failure to do so without instructor's permission will result in a failing grade for the exam.

### **Final Exam:**

The final will **not** be comprehensive, although there may be a longer essay question that requires you to discuss themes from the entire semester. It will cover material since the midterm exam. The last week of class I will hand out a study guide. You must write your exam during the final exam period. Failure to do so without instructor's permission will result in a failing grade for the exam. Final exams can only be rescheduled if the student can demonstrate that he or she has two additional exams scheduled for the same day.

### **Grades:**

Grades given reflect the following criteria of judgment:

- F: Failure to meet minimum requirements
- D: Unsatisfactory, but some effort to meet minimum requirements
- C: Satisfactory; met minimum requirements of assignment but not much more
- B: Good to Very Good: thoughtful reflection, good analysis, clear writing style
- A: Excellent depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and writing style; demonstrated creativity and mature analytical skills

### **Attendance:**

Regular attendance and participation in the class is expected and central to learning. Three to four absences will result in losing any benefit of the doubt on your final grade. Five to six absences will result in one grade level reduction (e.g., A to A-). Seven to eight absences will result in a full grade level reduction (e.g., A to B), and nine or more absences will result in a failing course grade (F). Late arrivals in class may count as an absence. (Note: If you have a valid reason for missing several classes, such as illness, disability or other conflicting commitments, you still must speak with the instructor. Documentation may be required.)

### **Participation:**

Good participation requires bringing your text to class, taking notes, being attentive with no distractions, and trying to make thoughtful contributions to class discussions. Participation also requires responding satisfactorily to weekly participation requirements, such as submission of responses or questions.

### **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:**

All work submitted is expected to be the student's own. Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course, and may result in further academic punishment. If you have any doubts about definitions of plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please review the relevant sections of the University Catalog.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

In accordance with the University of Montana's mission to provide equal educational opportunities for all students, necessary accommodations for students with disabilities will be made whenever possible. If you require accommodations, please provide written information regarding your disability from the [Disability Services](#) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

- Please arrive on time and do not walk out on classes early or in the middle of discussion without prior permission. Doing otherwise is disrespectful.
- Give the class full attention: no side discussions, sleeping, newspaper reading, crossword puzzles, or use of electronic devices. Anything other than full attention will count as an absence.
- Cell phones: Please turn off all cell phones prior to class unless you have informed me that you have a legitimate reason: for example, you are an EMT or a firefighter, parent of a young child, or are expecting an emergency call. If you are expecting a call, please keep the phone on the vibrate mode and step outside to take the call. Each instance of texting in class will count as an absence.
- Laptop and smart phones: The use of laptops and smart phones is not permitted without permission. Laptops used for text reading and/or note-taking must be used in the first two rows of seats.

### **Assignments:**

#### ***Introduction***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Jan. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduction:</b> Laying out themes and structure of the course</li> <li>• Individual and Cosmos in the Late Middle Ages (14th century)</li> </ul>	
Jan. 25	Background to Dante's Divine Comedy	
Jan. 27	Dante's Divine Comedy: Inferno	Cantos I-V, X-XI
Jan. 30	Dante's Divine Comedy: Inferno	Cantos XIII-XVI, XVIII-XIX, XXI-XXII
Feb. 1	Dante's Divine Comedy: Inferno	Cantos XXVI-XXVIII, XXXII-XXXIV
Feb. 3	Dante's Divine Comedy: Purgatorio	Cantos I-IV, VI, XVII-XIX
Feb. 6	Dante's Divine Comedy: Purgatorio	Cantos XXV-XXXIII
Feb. 8	Dante's Divine Comedy: Paradiso	Cantos I-V, VII, X-XII, XIX-XXI
Feb. 10	Dante's Divine Comedy: Paradiso	Cantos XXIII-XXVI, XXIX-XXXIII
Feb. 13	<b>Catch up and Review</b>	

#### ***Early Renaissance, Reform, and Reformation (15th – 16th centuries)***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Feb. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christine de Pisan: Excerpts</li> <li>Pico: "Oration on the Dignity of Man"</li> </ul>	
Feb. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erasmus: Selections from "Paraclesis"</li> <li>Martin Luther: "The Freedom of a Christian"</li> </ul>	
Feb. 20	<b>No Class: Presidents' Day</b>	
Feb. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thomas More: Utopia</li> </ul> <b>Formal Essay Due</b>	Book I (pp. 7-47)
Feb. 24	Thomas More: Utopia	Book II (pp. 49-82)
Feb. 27	Thomas More: Utopia	Book II (pp. 83-113)

***Exploration of the Self in the Northern Renaissance (16th – 17th centuries)***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Mar. 1	Montaigne: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intro. “To the Reader”</li> <li>“Of Idleness”</li> <li>“Of Cannibals”</li> </ul>	
Mar. 3	Montaigne: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“On Experience”</li> <li>“On the Education of Children”</li> </ul>	
Mar. 6	Shakespeare: Hamlet	Introduction, Act I
Mar. 8	Shakespeare: Hamlet	Act II
Mar. 10	Shakespeare: Hamlet	Acts III-IV
Mar. 13	Shakespeare: Hamlet	Act V (pp. 119-144)
Mar. 15	<b>Catch up and Review</b>	
Mar. 17	<b>Mid-term Exam</b>	
Mar. 20-24	<b>Spring Break</b>	

***The Age of Enlightenment (17th – 18th centuries)***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Mar. 27	Descartes: Discourse on Method	Intro, Parts One, Two, and Three
Mar. 29	Descartes: Discourse on Method	Parts Four, Five, and Six
Mar. 31	Kant: “What is Enlightenment?”	
Apr. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swift: “A Modest Proposal”</li> <li>Wollstonecraft: “A Vindication of the Rights of Women,”</li> </ul>	
Apr. 5	Madison: “Federalist Papers #10; “Declaration of Independence”	
Apr. 7	Voltaire: Candide	Chapters I-XV
Apr. 10	Voltaire: Candide	Chapters XVI-XXX

***Romanticism and Revolution (18th – 19th centuries)***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Apr. 12	Wordsworth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Tintern Abbey”</li> <li>“Daffodils”</li> <li>“The World is Too Much with Us</li> <li>“Late and Soon”</li> </ul>	
Apr. 14	Wordsworth: “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”	
Apr. 17	Mill: On Liberty	Chapter 1 (pp. 1-14)
Apr. 19	Mill: On Liberty	Chapter 2 (pp. 15-52)
Apr. 21	Mill: On Liberty	Chapter 3 (pp. 53-71)
Apr. 24	Tolstoy: Death of Ivan Ilych	chs. 1-6
Apr. 26	Tolstoy: Death of Ivan Ilych	chs. 7-12
Apr. 28	Marx: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Theses on Feuerbach”</li> <li>“Alienated Labor”</li> </ul>	

***The Modern and Post-Modern World (19th – 21st centuries)***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
May 1	Arendt: “On the Nature of Totalitarianism”	skim parts I and II, read III
May 3	“Into the Wild,” a film discussion	
May 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Dangers of Certainty”</li> <li>“My So-called Opinions” (both on Moodle)</li> <li>Course Evaluation</li> </ul>	
May 11	<b>Final Exam: Thursday, May 11, 3:20 a.m. – 5:20 p.m.</b>	